

servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

GOD’S LAVISH DELIGHT

This Sunday’s Gospel brings us to the very heart of Luke’s teaching—forgiveness and God’s delight in the return of the sinner. The Gospel’s introduction sets the scene: Jesus attracts and dines with moral reprobates. Is this mirroring what’s happening with Luke’s householders as they gather for the Lord’s Supper? Like Jesus, are they too being criticised by religious legislators?

Three parables follow. Our focus is on the third, the parable of two lost sons. Preachers often exclusively focus on the young son who demands his inheritance to leave the farm for a life of pleasure. The son is virtually treating his father as though dead when inheritances were usually bequeathed. He wants to completely cut family ties. We know what follows. The son’s need to address his chronic hunger and loneliness sitting with Earth’s most unclean creature, the pig, brings him to acknowledge his wrongdoing. He wants to return to his father’s farm not as a son but as a hired hand.

The father’s longing for his son’s return is palpable and completely upturns social expectation. It reflects God’s visceral response to the lost one who returns. The second older son is also lost. His adamant rejection of his younger brother’s behaviour and his unwillingness to join the celebration of the brother’s return flags an attitude circulating in Luke’s world. The father’s plea to this son for a change of heart is also a plea to the Gospel audience: Are we able to celebrate the joy of God’s lavish delight over those we would prefer to exclude?



Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

30 MARCH 2025

FIRST READING

Josh 5: 9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 33: 2-7. R. v. 9

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. Glorify the Lord with me. / Together let us praise his name. / I sought the Lord and he answered me; / from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**

3. Look towards him and be radiant; / let your faces not be abashed. / This poor man called; the Lord heard him / and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Cor 5: 17-21

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God’s work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men’s faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we

are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 15: 18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid-

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Croker
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Presbytery Ph: 02 8331 7609

Fr. Kose : 0470 498 321

Fr. is at Bombala Parish

Mass: 9.30am Bombala &

10.30am Delegate 2nd Wed

Parish Secretary:

Mrs Sharon Nesbitt 02 8331 7608

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Mon Wed & Thu:

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St Patrick's Parish School

Principal:

Dr Sean Mangan

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Parish Pastoral Council:

Darren 0429 904 291

www.cg.org.au/cooma

www.cg.org.au/jindabyne

www.cg.org.au/bombala

ST PATRICK'S PARISH FAMILY THREE PARISHES TOGETHER



Baptism -Request forms can be located on the Parish website or picked up from our Parish Office.

Fr Mark and Fr Kose will be available to celebrate Baptism during mass on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

CatholicMarriagePrep

<https://cgoatholic.org.au/marriagefamily/engaged>

St Patrick's Cooma Mass

Mass Sunday's at 10am

Cooma Reconciliation available as

requested following Mass

Lent- Stations of the Cross -

Fridays 5.30 pm

St Patrick's Weekday

Mass: Tues, Thu, Fri 10am

Except Third Friday of Month for

Nursing Home Masses -3rd Friday

9.30am Yallambee Lodge

11am Hudson House Respect

Adaminaby -2nd Sunday month

Next date = 13th April at 9am

Nimmitabel

Mass 3rd & 5th Sunday

*5pm Sat Vigil Mass

1st 2nd, 4th Sun- LITURGY Sat 5pm

Numeralla

LITURGY 2nd Sunday 5.00pm

Mass 4th Sunday 5.00pm

Berridale-

3.30pm Sat 2nd & 4th Sundays

Liturgy of the Word 10am Sunday's

1st 3rd & 5th Sunday of the month

Jindabyne

1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th =Vigil Mass 5pm Sat

5th Sunday Liturgy 5pm Sat



Fourth Sunday of Lent

29th and 30th of March 2025

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.



Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Sacramental Program 2025-for Children

Confirmation 31st May 2025 with Fr Richard vg.

First Reconciliation - 4th July 2025

First Holy Communion - 21st Sep 2025

Please see Fr Mark or Fr Kose if your child requires a registration form for enrolment for sacraments.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS during Lent

Friday's - St Patrick's Church Cooma 5.30pm

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

13th APRIL - Cooma 10am, Berridale Vigil

3.30pm, Jindabyne Vigil 5pm

Easter Week:

2nd Rite of Reconciliation – in preparation

Easter

Cooma – Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 7pm

Jindabyne after Vigil Mass - 12th April 2025

HOLY THURSDAY

Cooma 6pm

Delegate 5pm and Bombala 6.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Cooma Stations of the Cross 10am

Jindabyne Stations of the Cross (Leader)

Bombala Stations of the Cross 9.30am (Leader)

Cooma & Jindabyne 3pm Passion of the Lord

HOLY SATURDAY

Cooma 6pm, Bombala 5pm

EASTER SUNDAY

Adaminaby 8am - Cooma 10am –

Jindabyne 10am

Please Pray for our Recently Deceased,
“We have loved them in life; let us not forget them in death”: Peter Ward loving husband of Michelle -funeral at Cooma 5th April at 12pm; David Barron; Anne Bowerman
Anniversaries & Special Intentions: “In loving memory of” our departed family and friends: Mary Tozer, Carol Jones

LETTING GO, FINDING PEACE

“With God, all things are possible.”

~ Matthew 19:26 ~

Life can feel heavy when we carry too many worries, burdens or past hurts, but God never meant for us to walk alone, weighed down by things we cannot fix on our own.

He invites us to bring everything to Him – the fears, the struggles, the things we don't understand.

“Come to me, all who are weary, and I will give you rest.” These words remind us that we don't have to hold on to what drains our strength.

Knowing when to unload means trusting God with what we cannot control. It means letting go of worry and placing our cares in His hands. It doesn't mean our problems disappear instantly, but we find peace in knowing we are not alone.

God's love never changes, His wisdom never fails and His strength never ends. When life feels too much, we can pause, pray and hand over the weight. He is always ready to carry what we cannot.

👉 WHEREVER YOU GO, GOD IS WALKING WITH YOU 👉

Monaro Men's Breakfast

Sat 5th April @ 7.30am Anglican Hall

The men from St Paul's Anglican Cooma invite you to join them in a breakfast of bacon, eggs, toast, juice, tea, & coffee to build friendship together, and hear an informal talk by David Reading. Men only. Cost \$7.00

EASTER services -a Volunteer Roster for Services will is available at the Church entrance, please advise your availability during Easter week services, thank you Fr Mark.

Fr Mark's Jokes: Now I know: One lady told me, “Preacher, I never knew what suffering was until I heard you preach. Now I know.” Some preaching, like some teaching, elicits suffering – and that can be a grace, if we use it.

Roster	30 th Mar	6 th Apr
Acolyte	Kaitlyn Bosco	Darren Steinke
Usher	Kathleen Bashford	Pauline Radosavljevic
Reader/Commentator	Jo-Anne Brown Tony Goodwin	Kaitlyn Bosco Kevin Dunne
Mass Servers	*****	*****
Special Minister	Leah Baker	Beryl Barron
Childrens Liturgy	Kellie Summerville	Suja Tessy
Linen	Jan McLean	Michele Atkins
Church Care	5 th Shane Bilish & family	12 th Blyton & Barrett Family
Hospital	Joan Simpson	Leah Baker

Next weekend Readings

Fifth Sunday of Lent / C

1st Reading Isaiah 43: 16-21

2nd Reading Philippians 3: 8-14

Gospel John 8: 1-11



*We have an **EFT TAP n Go** available in Church entrance for your*

cashless donations (Archdiocese split 70/30:

1st & 2nd JUST TAP! The **New Smart Device** at door has the option to Choose donation \$amount

Thank you for supporting our Priest's and our Parish